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SAFEGUARDING YOUR FOOD AND DRUG SUPPLY -- No. 36

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

A radio talk by W. W. Vincent, chief of the western district, Food and Drug Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, broadcast through KGO, San Francisco, and associated National Broadcasting Company stations, at 12:45 p.m., February 26, 1931.

MR. LAMB: Today, W. W. Vincent proposes to leave the food field to talk about drugs. You farm and city folks will be interested in what he will tell you. Every dog lover will be interested. He is going to talk about veterinary preparations. That's a big subject. Mr. Vincent, these folks want to know about the Food and Drug Administration's activities in the veterinary field. Will you tell them that story about medicated salt you told me?

MR. VINCENT: I'll be glad to. But I wouldn't say that salt was medicated. It was lack of medication which made that story interesting. This occurred but a short while back. A manufacturer of veterinary preparations in Iowa shipped to a Montana dealer a total of 80,300 pounds of a preparation called "Sal-Tonik," invoiced at \$3260.18. When your food and drug agents found it, there still remained 942 packages of these 50-pound blocks. Analysis of this preparation showed it to consist of paraffine-coated blocks of 50 pounds each, consisting largely of common salt (87.8%) and of calcium carbonate (4.2%). In addition, there were small amounts of an iron compound, some sulphates of sodium and sulphur present. Just about an unrefined salt, folks, with perhaps a little iron oxide and chalk added. Here's the interesting part. When the inspector purchased this material from the wholesaler, he was charged \$4.25 for one of these 50-pound salt blocks, or at the rate of 8½¢ per pound. Pretty cheap - if a preparation would do what this one was supposed to do. Listen to just a very few of the claims made on the label of the carton in which these 50-pound bricks were packed. Here are some - "Sal-Tonik" is composed of laxatives, powerful tonics, bone-building minerals and worm-destroying, life-protecting drugs, necessary for all farm animals*** intended to keep your animals from getting sick. Sal-Tonik is sold under our unparalleled twelve-point guarantee to prevent intestinal worms, contagious abortion, bloating, corn-stalk diseases and Necrotic Enteritis, and to make fattening cattle fatten faster and finish quicker, and milch cows to give more and better milk." There were more statements like that and then came this quotation: "This can only be accomplished by the Solid Block and this is why the United States and Canadian Governments recognized its merits and issued a basic patent on Sal-Tonik." I can't take the time to tell you all the false and extravagant statements that appeared on the labeling of this preparation. What you are interested in is this: What did your Food and Drug agents do to prevent the sale of this product as a medicine rather than as an ordinary salt lick? Here's what they did - they filed a libel in Federal court wherein was alleged the statement I have quoted, as well as numerous others, were all false and fraudulent in that the article contained no ingredient or combination of ingredients capable of producing the effects claimed, and further that the said statements were applied to the article knowingly and in reckless and wanton disregard of their truth or falsity so as to represent falsely and fraudulently to the purchasers thereof and to create in the minds of such purchasers the impression and belief that it was composed of or contained in-

gradients or medical agents effective in the conditions and diseases which were named therein.

Folks, we seized 930 of those blocks. The manufacturer did not see fit to defend his misbranded product in the Federal court. No, the agent who apparently had his money invested in the product decided he would salvage what he could. So he appeared as claimant for the property, allowed a judgment of condemnation to be entered, and the court released the product to him on the payment of costs of the case and the execution of a bond which provided that it might be relabeled to the satisfaction of the Department of Agriculture. Folks, a part of that material was, on December 26th last, still in storage awaiting a proper relabeling which would eliminate every one of those false and fraudulent statements that appeared on the carton. The material won't be ridiculously claimed as a "cure" or treatment for any disease as it was originally, either! Right here, folks, I want to say, "read-the-label" before buying these veterinary preparations. Frequently, after the Food and Drug Administration has taken action against these types of products, the false and fraudulent claims may appear again in advertising in media over which the Food and Drug Administration has no jurisdiction.

MR. LAMB: Well, that's one way to reduce the price of crude salt. I wonder, Mr. Vincent, would you give these folks that list of diseases, especially for poultry, for which there are as yet no adequate drug treatments.

MR. VINCENT: It's^a pretty lengthy list. To begin with, there's no adequate drug treatment for poultry suffering with typhoid, cholera, coccidiosis, fowl pest, roup, diphtheria, chicken pox, Pullorum disease or diarrhea of chicks and gapes, nor the blackhead of turkeys. Some of the latter mentioned can be prevented by proper precautionary methods, but once the disease is contracted it does not respond to drug treatment.

When it comes to hog diseases there are no remedies other than serum or virus treatment for hog cholera, nor are there effective drug treatments for the hog flu or contagious abortion of swine, nor swine plague, and general claims that are made with respect to worms are not true. There are treatments for specific worms, but no preparations that are efficacious against all types of worms in animals. Has it ever occurred to you why anyone, these days, seldom sees a drug remedy offered to cure hog cholera or tuberculosis or contagious abortion of cattle? It is because of the activity of the Food and Drug Administration that drug preparations of this kind are getting to be things of the past.

When it comes to horses, claims to cure distemper, pink eye, influenza, heaves, and worms in general exceed the truth. And when it comes to dogs, farm or town variety, be they suffering with running or barking fits, black tongue, distemper, follicular mange, and all types of worms, there has not yet been a drug or combination of drugs that veterinary science could truthfully offer to the public as a treatment for such disease conditions.

The veterinarians are still looking for some drug to cure contagious abortion and tuberculosis in cattle. Every dairyman knows that certain of his cattle will at times suffer a decreased milk production and, if they don't,

they should know that milk production in dairy cows cannot be increased above normal by the feeding of any drug or combination of drugs known to modern veterinary science. For the last statement, I am quoting Dr. H. E. Moskey, the Veterinarian of the Food and Drug Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture. He says that decreased milk production is the result of many factors. Chronic and acute infectious diseases, lack of properly balanced rations, digestive disturbances, together with external and internal parasitic diseases, all of which may contribute to a decreased milk production. You can temporarily increase a cow's appetite with certain bitter stomachics - with consequent temporarily increased milk flow - but the continued use of such appetizers will not assure an increased milk production.

Speaking of egg production, Dr. Moskey states that many preparations claimed to increase the number of eggs laid as well as their fertility, and to improve their hatchability, are illegally labeled. It is not within the power of drugs to substantiate those claims. He says veterinarians agree with him that claims on drug preparations which purport to increase egg production are unwarranted and therefore fraudulent.

I once talked on so-called "health" foods for humans. I told you that food commodities which bear reference to health-giving properties must be classed as drugs, and that many manufacturers were inclined to make excessive claims with respect to their so-called health-food products. Likewise, there are stock-feed manufacturers, as well as stock remedy manufacturers, who are inclined to use the words "health" and "health-giving" in connection with their various preparations. Your Food and Drug Administration cautions not to place reliance in such claims as may appear on proprietary remedies or proprietary foods. To do so is wasting your money and, in addition, inviting serious loss. For what you need is scientific advice, proper medical treatment, or, perhaps only the proper feed, the proper housing, the proper ventilation for your stock.

Well, Mr. Lamb, my time is about up. We've covered a pretty broad field. I've been general in my statements. If any of these folks are interested in receiving the views of the Food and Drug Administration as I have today expressed them, they may have this information free of charge by simply dropping W. W. Vincent a post card, care the station to which you are listening, or the U. S. Food and Drug Laboratory, San Francisco.

MR. LAMB: That's fine, Mr. Vincent. I'd just like to add that you stock-raisers, you farmers, you city folks, all who are interested in animals or animal diseases, have at your command, not only the Federal Department of Agriculture, but your experiment stations, your State agricultural colleges, and your county agents. All of these folks are desirous of helping you to become intelligent stock or poultry raisers. Get in touch with them with your problems and, remember, that Mr. Vincent in his talks is striving to make of you more intelligent, better informed, more exacting and more discriminating buyers. Those of you who want his "Read-the-Label" information, don't hesitate to write him. His mailing list numbers thousands and he will be glad to put your name on it.

